

Message Text

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S E C R E T CAIRO 11527

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG
SUBJ: FAHMY ON COLOMBO NAM MEETING

SUMMARY: FAHMY DESCRIBES COLOMBO NAM CONFERNECE AS "CHAOTIC". ONLY REALY LEADER PRESENT WERE MRS. GHANDI, SADAT AND TITIO. COMBINATION OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN AND SOME ASIAN STATES HAD EMERGED, CLEARLY UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE, WHICH SUCCESSFULLY ESPOUSING EXTREMIST POSITIONS. ON KOREA, THERE HAD BEEN ABOUT 15 TO 20 RESERVATIONS, BUT GOE SUPPORTED NORTH KOREAN POSITION AS IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST. RE PUERTO RICO, HE HAD INSTRUCTED EGYPTIAN DELEGATE TO OPPOSE CUBAN AMENDMENT. HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THIS HAD BEEN DONE. EGYPTIAN CONTRIBUTION TO CONFERENCE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE , ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE, GOE HAD SOUGHT TO OFFSET EXTREME POSITIONS, BUT COULD NOT DO IT ALONE. FAHMY WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF WHAT HE CALLED USG FAILURE TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY LOBBIED AFRICAN STATES PRIOR TO CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT MODERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY YESTERDAY IN ALEXANDRIA, HE PROVIDED HIS VERSION OF THE RECENT COLOMBO NAM CONFERENCE. HIS COMMENTS WERE LARGELY GENERAL AND HE SEEMED TO WISH TO AVOID BEING TOO SPECIFIC. THEY ALSO HAD THE RING OF THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE.

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2. FAHMY DESCRIBED THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE AS "CHAOTIC".

NAM SESSIONS WERE BEGINNING TO BE MORE AND MORE
LIKE THE UN WITHOUT ANY UNITY OF PURPOSE. OUT OF OVER
100 MEMBERS, ONLY SOME 30 CHIEFS OF STATE HAD COME.
THE ONLY REAL LEADERS AT THE CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO FAHMY,
WERE MR. GHANDI, SADAT AND TITO. ASKED ABOUT QADHAFI,
FAHMY CONCEDED THAT THE
LIBYAN LEADER HAD BEEN THE "HERO" OF THE STREET.
QADHAFI HAD DISTRIBUTED LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY AND
PICTURES OF HIMSELF. ALTHOUGH SOME LOW KEY EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE
TO BRING SADAT AND ASAD TOGETHER, SADAT HAD REFUSED ANY SUCH OFFERS.

3. A "STRANGE COMBINATION", CONSISTING MAINLY OF
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN AND SOME ASIAN STATES, HAD EMERGED.
THIS BLOC WAS "100 PERCENT BRIEFED BY THE SOVIETS" IN
TERMS OF ESPOUSING EXTREME POSITIONS ALL OF
THE INITIATIVES AT THE CONFERENCE CAME FROM THIS SOVIET
INFLUENCED GROUP. EVEN THE LANGUAGE OF DRAFT DOCUMENTS
WAS REplete WITH MARXIST DIALECTICS. WITH FEW
EXCEPTION, THIS GROUP HAD BEEN ABLE TO PUSH TOGETHER
ITS VIEWS.

4. THE PRINCIPLE EXCEPTION WAS KOREA ON WHICH THERE
WERE ABOUT 15 TO 20 RESERVATIONS. EGYPT, FAHMY STATED
WITHOUT APOLOGY, HAS IN PAST VOTED FOR THE
NORTH KOREAN POSITION AND HAD DONE SO AGAIN. WE WERE
AWARE OF WHY GOE DOES SO. (HIS MORE DETAILED COMMENTS
ON KOREA BEING SENT SEPTTEL).

5. ON PUERTO RICO, HE HAD INSTRUCTED THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATE
TO OPPOSE THE CUBAN RESOLUTION. ASKED IF THE EGYPTIAN
DELEGATE HAD INDEED DONE SO, FAHMY SEEMED UNSURE. HE
CLAIMED NOT HAVE CHECKED THIS, BUT THOUGHT THE
GOE DELEGATE HAD EITHER ENTERED A RESERVATION OR HAD
KEEP QUIET. I REMINDED HIM THAT HE HAD EARLIER ASSURED
US THAT GOE WOULD OPPOSE ANY REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO.
HE WAS A BIT EMBARRASSED (TO THE EXTENT THAT FAHMY CAN
EVER BECOME SO), BUT AGAIN INDICATED HIS
BELIEF THAT GOE DELEGATE HAD OPPOSED CUBAN RESOLUTION.

6. ASKED ABOUT THE ROLE OF EGYPT, HE DESCRIBED IT AS
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"TREMENDOUS". NOT ONLY HAD SADAT BEEN ONE OF THE FEW
REAL LEADERS AT THE CONFERENCE, BUT GOE HAD BEEN
RAPporteur OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. GOE DELEGATE HAD
MADE FREQUENT AND USEFUL (BUT UNDESCRIBED) CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THAT COMMITTEE. IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, GOE HAD
DONE ITS BEST TO "OFFSET" EXTREMIST POSITIONS, BUT
COULD NOT DO IT ALONE.

7. FAHMY THEN LAUNCHED INTO A STRONG CRITICISM OF WHAT HE CALLED OUR FAILURE TO HAVE ADEQUATE LOBBIED THE AFRICAN STATES PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE. MOST OF THE AFRICAN LEADERS, HE SCATHINGLY OBSERVED, WOULD FOR \$500 GIVE THEIR VOTES TO ANYONE. HE KNEW THEM WELL AND HE COULD ASSURE US THAT, APART FROM AFRICAN ISSUES, THEY DO NOT VOTE ON PRINCIPLE. IN HIS JUDGEMENT THEY HAD CLEARLY RECEIVED HANDOUTS FROM THE SOVIETS OR PERHAPS FROM THE LIBYANS.

8. I TOLD HIM THAT, WHILE I RESPECTED HIS VIEWS, I COULD NOT AGREE WITH THEM. WE HAD INDEED MADE SERIOUS EFFORTS WITH ALL POTENTIALLY FRIENDLY STATES, INCLUDING EGYPT, TO URGE SUPPORT FOR MODERATE POSITIONS ON ISSUES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US. IF SOME OF THEM DID NOT SPEAK UP AS STRONGLY AS THEY MIGHT HAVE, I COULD ONLY ASSUME IT WAS DUE TO THE HEADY ATMOSPHERE OF THE CONFERENCE. I NOTED THAT EVEN HE HAD TOLD ME THAT GOE HAD BEEN LIMITED IN WHAT IT COULD DO. FAHMY'S SOLE RESPONSE WAS THAT OUR AMBASSADORS IN THE AFRICAN AND SOME OF THE ASIAN COUNTRIES MUST NOT HAVE WORKED HARD ENOUGH TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO SUPPORT MODERATE POSITIONS. UNLESS WE BEGIN DEALING WITH AFRICANS THE WAY AFRICANS UNDERSTAND, AS THE SOVIETS ARE DOING, THE HAM IS LIKELY TO BECOME STILL MORE EXTREMIST.

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